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QUICK CASH

The sports-gambling industry is moving at a rapid pace as online sports books opened this week. 8

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MATT BURKE, SPORTS EDITOR

Hopping over the river to the Meadowslands to place a sports bet is a minor pain but it won't always be like this.

The sports gambling industry is moving at a rapid pace as we outline today on Page 8 and at metro.us. Things are moving so quickly that online betting is already up and running in Jersey and many other states are set to follow suit, including New York. Read up on the latest inside.

WELCOME TO
METRO.USNM CHILDREN WERE BEING
TRAINED FOR SHOOTINGS

Two men charged in the abuse of 11 youths found malnourished at a ramshackle compound in New Mexico were training the children with firearms to commit school shootings, prosecutors said in court documents filed in the case on Wednesday. One of the suspects, identified as Huraj Wahhaj, is the father of a young boy whose disappearance from his home near Atlanta months ago prompted the investigation that led authorities to raid the compound, located north of Taos, New Mexico, last week. Remains believed to be that

of the boy, who was 3 years old when his mother reported him missing, were found at the property on Monday but have not yet been positively identified, authorities said. Wahhaj, a second man accused of harboring him as a fugitive, Lucas Morton, and three women presumed to be the mothers of the 11 children, who were taken into protective custody from the compound, were each charged with 11 counts of felony child abuse. The five defendants made their initial court appearance before a local magistrate on Wednesday.

OUTRAGE OVER OSCARS
'POPULAR' MOVIES HONOR

The Oscars will introduce a new award for popular films and the annual ceremony will be limited to three hours, organizers said on Wednesday, in a bid to stave off slumping audiences for the movie industry's most prestigious honors. The decision to create a special category for popular films sparked an immediate backlash, with one critic saying it smacked of desperation. The sweeping changes also include handing out some of the 24 Academy Awards during commercial breaks in the Feb. 24 broadcast

on Walt Disney Co.'s ABC network. "We are committed to producing an entertaining show in three hours, delivering a more accessible Oscars for our viewers worldwide," the board of governors at the Academy of Motion Pictures said in a letter to members. The U.S. television audience for the almost four-hour Oscar ceremony in March 2018 was 26.5 million viewers, the smallest in the awards' 90-year history. The telecast is an important showcase for the film industry, and nominated movies typically attract a new wave of ticket buyers.



HEAT WAVE LEADS TO LOW LEVELS OF ELBE RIVER

People walk on an exposed and dried out portion of the Elbe River bed that under normal conditions would be submerged under water during hot weather on Wednesday in Magdeburg, Germany. A heat wave and dry spell are persisting over Germany that this week is bringing temperatures to 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Farmers are reporting plummeting harvests, while shrinking rivers are exposing munitions left over from World War II.

GETTY IMAGES

SEC TO EXAMINE
MUSK'S TESLA TWEETS

U.S. regulators are asking Tesla Inc. why Chief Executive Elon Musk announced his plan to take the electric carmaker private on Twitter and whether his statement was truthful, the Wall Street Journal reported on Wednesday. Musk announced his plan on his personal Twitter account on Tuesday, and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission has asked Tesla about the facts of the matter, why it was disclosed on Twitter rather than in a regulatory filing and whether it believed investor-protection rules had been met, the Journal said. The agency

declined to comment and Tesla did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Tesla shares fell 2.4 percent to \$370.34 on Wednesday after closing up 11 percent on Tuesday, ending about \$50 per share below what Musk said he was considering offering. Musk had dropped the surprise plan in a terse tweet, saying, "Am considering taking Tesla private at \$420. Funding secured." He has not provided details or evidence of the funding by Twitter or in a following blog posted on the Tesla web site, and several securities attorneys told Reuters Musk could face investor lawsuits.

CHINA TO SLAP MORE TARIFFS ON \$16B OF US GOODS

China is slapping additional tariffs of 25 percent on \$16 billion worth of U.S. imports from fuel and steel products to autos and medical equipment, the Chinese commerce ministry said, as the world's largest economies escalated their trade dispute. The tariffs will be activated on Aug. 23, the ministry said, the same day that the United States plans to begin collecting 25 percent extra in tariffs on \$16 billion of Chinese goods. The United States published its final list of goods subject to the new tariffs on Tuesday. China's final

list announced on Wednesday differs from an earlier draft it published in June, which included crude oil. The number of categories of goods subject to tariffs rose to 333 from 114 in the June draft, although the total value is unchanged. The U.S. action that prompted the Chinese retaliation was the latest by President Donald Trump to put pressure on China to negotiate trade concessions, after Washington imposed tariffs on \$34 billion in goods last month. China has vowed to retaliate with equivalent tariffs against any U.S. action.

STATS

STEPHON CLARK

One of the police officers who shot and killed Stephon Clark, an unarmed black man in Sacramento, was confronted by Black Lives Matter protesters on his wedding day. Do you think this is an appropriate or inappropriate method of protest?



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NEWS

NY Congressman Collins, son charged with insider trading

The indictment came as the Republican was seeking a fourth two-year term in November's elections.

Christopher Collins, a Republican U.S. congressman from New York who was one of President Donald Trump's earliest supporters, was criminally charged on Wednesday with taking part in an insider trading scheme involving an Australian biotechnology company on whose board he served.

The indictment came as Collins, 68, was seeking a fourth two-year term in November's elections, where Democrats hope to recapture the House of Representatives.

Two lawyers for Collins, Jonathan Barr and Jonathan New, said in a



Rep. Chris Collins, R-N.Y., attends a House Energy and Commerce Communications and Technology Subcommittee markup in Rayburn Building in 2018. GETTY IMAGES

statement that they were confident he would be "completely vindicated and exonerated," and that they would "mount a vigorous defense to clear his good name."

The indictment

charged Collins, his son Cameron, and Stephen Zarsky, the father of Cameron Collins' fiancée, with securities fraud, wire fraud and other crimes. All three also face civil charges by the U.S.

Securities and Exchange Commission.

Amanda Bassen, a lawyer for Zarsky, declined to comment. Lawyers for Cameron Collins could not immediately be reached. All three defen-

dants were expected to appear in the U.S. District Court in Manhattan later Wednesday.

The case related to Innate Immunotherapeutics Ltd, where Christopher Collins sat on the board and held a 16.8 percent stake.

Prosecutors said that in June 2017, Collins learned in an email from Innate's chief executive that a trial for its proposed secondary multiple sclerosis drug MIS416 had failed.

According to the indictment, Collins passed that information on to his son, who in turn passed the news to his fiancée, Zarsky and a friend. Zarsky went on to tip his brother, his sister and a friend, the indictment said.

Christopher Collins did not trade his own Innate stock, which lost millions of dollars in value, according to the

indictment.

Prosecutors said the congressman knew he was "virtually precluded" from trading in part because he already faced a congressional ethics probe related to his Innate holdings.

However, prosecutors said others avoided more than \$768,000 in losses when Innate's share price plunged to 3.5 cents from 45 cents after the drug trial results were announced.

Innate, which is based in Sydney, did not immediately respond to a request for comment outside business hours.

Collins represents New York's solidly Republican 27th Congressional District, and nonpartisan analysts predict he will win re-election. The district includes areas surrounding Buffalo and Rochester in the northwestern part of the state. REUTERS

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This photograph depicts a ventral view, i.e., underside, of an adult female *Haemaphysalis longicornis* tick, commonly known as the longhorned tick. JAMES GATHANY/CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Invasive new tick spreads around NY

The longhorned tick is new to the United States, having been found in New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and more areas, and potentially very dangerous to humans.



KRISTIN TOUSSAINT
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Ticks have been a growing menace across the United States, but now, a new tick species has been found around New York City called the longhorned tick, and it could bring even bigger threats.

The longhorned tick, scientific name *Haemaphysalis longicornis*, is spreading along the East Coast, marking the first time a new tick species has popped up in 50 years, *The New York Times* reported.

But what is it about the longhorned tick that has public health officials concerned? It's an Asian tick species that can self-clone, meaning it can reproduce asexually through a process called parthenogenesis. This means that female longhorned ticks can lay hundreds of eggs without mating, thus reproducing into large numbers quickly.

The longhorned tick is native to Japan, China and Korea and often found in Australia and New Zealand, as well. But recently, it has been spreading to the states.

The tick species first appeared in Hunterdon County, New Jersey in 2017, and this summer, the pest has been identified in more areas of New Jersey and Westchester

County in New York, as well as Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina and Arkansas.

The New York State Health Department in July announced that the longhorned tick was found in multiple locations within Westchester County, warning all New Yorkers, and especially farmers, to take more general precautions against ticks, like wearing long pants or long sleeve shirts when in wooded areas, using repellents and checking for ticks often whenever outdoors.

**"We will
continue to
conduct
surveillance
and research
on this new
type of tick."**

Dr. Howard Zucker,
State Health Commissioner

"Taking steps to protect yourself, your children and pets against ticks is the best way to prevent tick bites and tickborne diseases," State Health Commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker said in a statement. "We will continue to conduct surveillance and research on this new type of tick, but it is encouraging that the same steps that protect against deer ticks are also effective against the longhorned tick."

When the New York State Health Department first announced the arrival of the longhorned tick in New York this summer, experts cautioned that the longhorned tick has trans-

mitted disease to humans in other parts of the world, but that more research is needed to determine whether this can happen in the United States.

The longhorned ticks found in New Jersey have not been found to carry pathogens or to bite people so far, according to researchers at the Rutgers University Center for Vector Biology in a June 2018 report.

However, the researchers note, in the species' native areas in Asia, the longhorned tick has been known to infect humans with several diseases, some of which are fatal.

Most health experts in the U.S. are warning that longhorned ticks may pose a particular threat to livestock and pets. The species is also called the cattle tick or bush tick, because longhorned ticks are often found on animals.

When the longhorned tick was first found in western New Jersey, a sheep on a Hunterdon County farm was found covered in them. Earlier this month, Aug. 3, a longhorned tick was found on a white-tailed deer in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

"While we continue to learn more about the longhorned tick, it is evident that this species may possibly cause illness not only in humans, but also in livestock and our pets," New York State Agriculture Commissioner Richard A. Ball said in a statement. "We encourage farmers to be vigilant and keep a watchful eye out for this tick to protect their animals and stay ahead of any potential problems for the livestock industry in New York State."

Doctors Urge Knee Pain Sufferers

“Don’t Get ANY Surgery Until You See This...”

After Years Of Intense Study, NYC Medical Clinic Finally Reveals It’s Best “Treatment Formula” For Helping Knee Arthritis Sufferers... Especially When So Many Other Treatments Have Failed

NEW YORK CITY - If you are even remotely interested in discovering how the latest scientific discoveries can possibly help your knee pain... then this is going to be the most exciting information you ever read.

Here is why: Knee pain can not only be brutal... it’s complex. In other words, it’s not a simple, easy fix.

But I’m sure you already know that. Or you wouldn’t be reading this.

That’s the bad news.

Now for some good news...

Over the years, *NYC Pain MD* has treated countless knee pain sufferers. And in that time have been able to constantly improve.

And we have come up with a treatment formula that we have found works best and helps the most patients.

This formula has reduced or even eliminated the pain in many. Some were scheduled for knee replacement surgery and felt good enough to cancel their surgery.

It’s amazing when patients who were once in excruciating pain... start feeling better. And start walking again. And playing golf. Or tennis. And finally getting their lives back.

Especially when they had gone to other doctors and tried so many other things.

So many had given up hope.

Sound familiar? If it does... check this out...

The Treatment Formula

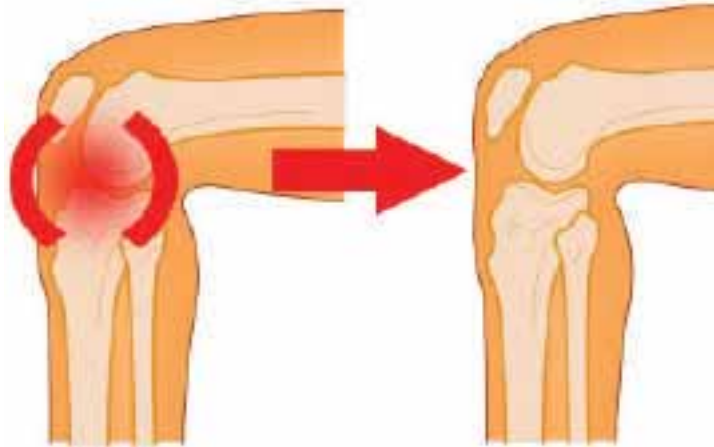
While I can’t give you the entire treatment formula here (there is not enough space and WAY too complicated) I can give you the basics. And more important... I can tell you what it might be able to do for YOU.

The first and most important part of the formula is: **PATIENT SELECTION.**

This means, *NYC Pain MD* has a detailed screening process to tell who is most likely to be helped by their treatments... and who is not.

If you qualify, you have the opportunity to move forward and experience the worldclass treatments that *NYC Pain MD* offers.

If you do not, *NYC Pain MD* will tell you what they think your best options are and help



NYC Pain MD “**Treatment Formula**” A protocol of advanced medical treatments that has already helped thousands.

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- Platelet Rich Plasma (PRP)
- Stem Cell Therapy (Lipogems)
- Genicular Knee Block
- And more.

Once again, there is not enough space to go into detail about all these procedures... but here are some things you **MUST KNOW...**

Viscosupplementation is where a doctor introduces a gel-like medicine directly into the joint space. This helps to lubricate the joints often relieving some, most or even all of your pain. Results can last for 6 months to several years.

Many have had these treatments *without* good results. However, *NYC Pain MD* feels this is because doctors often do these “gel injections” without advanced imaging to guide them. Research shows they will often miss the joint. If the joint is missed... it is impossible for the treatment to work.

NYC Pain MD has spared no expense and used advanced imaging to guide the injections assuring the medicine gets into the joint. We frequently get results when this treatment was a failure done elsewhere.

The second thing you must know is... our treatment plans are custom made for every patient. And we have all these treatments

offered in the same place. Many times you will get the best results from multiple treatments. At *NYC Pain MD* your doctors will all be there and will all know each other and you and your case. They work together and give you the best treatments and care without you having to go anywhere else.

The ability to select the right patients and then have the potential to give them any or all of these treatments... with all the necessary medical technology... under one roof... has allowed *NYC Pain MD* to get better results than they thought possible.

Here’s What You Should Do Next

If you suffer with knee pain... and any of this made sense to you... *NYC Pain MD* would like to offer you a No-cost screening. That screening is the first step in our “Treatment Formula.”

You will get to see a doctor and ask any questions you have. Your doctor will take the first steps to see if you qualify for treatments and give you recommendations.

The best thing is... you will finally get direction. You will know what’s going on and what is your best course of action... step-by-step. The treatments will be explained in detail and you will breathe a big sigh of relief finally knowing what’s going on and what can or cannot be done.

There is so much we want to say to help you... but I’m out of space. Give us a call at **877-296-6310** and take the first step. That step is free without obligation.



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The sports gambling boom is here

Online betting sites were introduced this week.



MATTHEW BURKE
matthew.burke@metro.us

The sports-gambling boom is happening much faster than many believed it would since the Supreme Court ruled in May that legalization would be up to individual states instead of being restricted on a federal level.

Things are already up and running in New Jersey, Delaware and Mississippi, and New Jersey was the first to roll out online sports betting. DraftKings, through a partnership with Resorts Casino Hotel, launched the first legal online sports betting platform outside of Nevada this week. All of the future online sites must be partnered with physical sports books



Bettors place wagers at the Westgate Las Vegas Resort and Casino. Sports books like this are already being introduced on the East Coast. GETTY IMAGES

within a state with legal gambling.

For people currently outside of states with legal sports betting thinking that they could somehow hack their way onto one of these sites, the early returns are

that the sites are already very much secured.

"It's creepy how well they can locate you," said sports business and gaming analyst John Brennan, of USBets.com. "They can thank all the online poker and

online casino people. All the experimentation with deposits and withdrawals — it's paid off for them. If you're say, driving in your car across the New Jersey border into Pennsylvania the [online betting

website] will ping you and shut you down as soon as you cross state lines."

Interestingly, Brennan believes that the rise of online sports betting will not spell doom for offshore sports gambling web sites.

"The thing is, the odds are often much better on off-shore sites," Brennan said. "Plus there are people who are used to playing the off-shore sites. The problem with a lot of these new sports books opening up are that the odds for winning are really poor. So, I don't think the neighborhood bookie is going away."

East Coast expansion

MGM has been at the forefront of expansion lately as it relates to sports gambling. It bought Empire City Casino and Yonkers Raceway in New York right after the Supreme Court ruling and MGM Spring-

field (Massachusetts) is opening later this month. The anticipation is that sports betting will be legalized in the states of New York and Massachusetts by the end of 2019.

"There likely won't be much movement in New York until next spring with all the political in-fighting right now. Plus they're dealing with the Native American casinos," Brennan said. "Massachusetts is not exactly a leader to get it right now but I think they will in 2019 or 2020 because of the acceptance of the casino culture. And in Pennsylvania the taxes are just really high. It will depend on how eager some operators will be to get into that market."

The gaming board in Pennsylvania is expected to act on another package of sports betting regulations, including prop bets, on Aug. 15.

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New York City votes to cap Uber, Lyft vehicle licenses

Mayor Bill de Blasio said he intended to sign the bills into law.

The New York City Council on Wednesday agreed to cap the number of licenses for ride-hailing services such as Uber Technologies Inc. for one year, dealing a blow to the companies that have relied on the largest U.S. metro area for a major source of their revenue.

The first such cap by any major U.S. city was part of a package of measures that also includes setting a minimum wage for drivers.

The package, opposed by major ride-hailing companies, is aimed at reducing traffic congestion and increasing driver paychecks in the wake of the explosive growth of for-hire vehicles. The drop in incomes has demoralized many drivers and the New York Taxi Workers Alliance said there have been six suicides among cab and livery drivers in recent months.

New York Mayor Bill de Blasio said he intended to sign the bills into law, which would start the 12-month period where no new for-hire vehicle licenses would be issued, with an exception for wheelchair-accessible vehicles.

The number of ride-hailing vehicles operating in the city has jumped from about 12,600 in 2015 to about 80,000 this year, according to the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission. About 14,000 yellow cabs operate in the city.

The effort to cap the services in New York, Uber's largest U.S. market, was opposed by ride-hail-

ing businesses, including Uber, Lyft and Via.

"The city's 12-month pause on new vehicle licenses will threaten one of the few reliable transportation options while doing nothing to fix the subways or ease congestion," Uber said in a statement.

Lyft said: "These sweeping cuts to transportation will bring New Yorkers back to an era of struggling to get a ride, particularly for communities of color and in the outer boroughs."

Via, which operates shared rides with established stops, hopes the city will make an exception for carpools, which it says reduce congestion and provide drivers with the most money.

In emails to nearly five million New Yorkers last month, Uber said riders would face higher prices, longer wait times and less service in the city's outer suburbs by drivers.

The New York Taxi Workers Alliance, an 18,000-member union representing the city's taxi drivers, hailed the council's vote as a victory.

"New York City is the first city in the country enact drivers' demands into legislation," it said on its website.

Last month Uber's CEO and Lyft's president both addressed the traffic congestion complaints at a technology conference in Aspen, Colorado. They said they are trying to broaden their services by reducing reliance on cars, which can be seen in Uber's acquisition of JUMP bikes and a deal with Lime scooters. Lyft has acquired the Motivate bike-sharing company. It has also pledged to make half of its trips carpools, with multiple passengers by 2020. **REUTERS**

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US imposes sanctions on Russia for nerve agent attack

Washington said on Wednesday it would impose fresh sanctions on Russia by the end of August after it determined that Moscow had used a nerve agent against a former Russian agent and his daughter in Britain.

A senior State Department official said it had notified the Kremlin of the sanctions earlier in the day.

Sergei Skripal, a former colonel in Russia's GRU military intelligence service, and his 33-year-old daughter, Yulia, were found slumped unconscious on a bench in the southern English city of Salisbury in March after a liquid form of the Novichok type of nerve agent was applied to his home's front door.

European countries and the United States expelled 100 Russian diplomats after the attack, in the strongest action by President Donald Trump against Russia since he came to office.

State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said it had been determined that Russia "has used chemical or biological weapons in violation of international law, or has used lethal chemical or biological weapons against its own nationals."

The sanctions would cover sensitive national-security controlled goods, a senior State Department official told reporters on a conference call, citing the 1991 Chemical and Biological Weapons and Warfare Elimination Act.

There would, however, be exemptions for space flight activities, government space cooperation, and areas covering commercial passenger aviation safety, which would be reviewed on a case by case basis, the official added.

"It is possible that trade affected could potentially reach hundreds

of millions of dollars," the official added. "It's up to Russia how dramatic the impact is."

The official said a second batch of "more draconian" sanctions would be imposed after 90 days unless Russia gives "reliable assurances" that it will no longer use chemical weapons and allow on-site inspections by the United Nations or other international observer groups.

"It is possible that trade affected could potentially reach hundreds of millions of dollars."

Heather Nauert,
State Department
spokeswoman

"If those criteria are not met - it is up to Russia to make that decision - a second round of sanctions ... will be imposed," the official said. "They are in general more draconian than the first round."

A British government spokesman welcomed Washington's announcement, saying: "The strong international response to the use of a chemical weapon on the streets of Salisbury sends an unequivocal message to Russia that its provocative, reckless behavior will not go unchallenged."

The news came as Republican U.S. Senator Rand Paul said on Wednesday he had delivered a letter from President Donald Trump to Russian President Vladimir Putin proposing cooperation. **REUTERS**



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Veterinarians are reluctant to even discuss prescribing pot for pets, which remains illegal under federal law.

Pot for pets: Some vets are afraid to talk about marijuana

Veterinarians are reluctant to even discuss prescribing pot for pets, which remains illegal under federal law.

A wave of medical research is providing fresh evidence that marijuana may help dogs and cats cope with arthritis, epilepsy, anxiety and other maladies without the side effects of traditional drugs, but veterinarians are afraid to prescribe pot for pets for fear of running afoul of federal laws.

At least 30 U.S. states have legalized medical marijuana, but none of them make provisions for ailing animals.

As a result, veterinarians are reluctant to even discuss prescribing pot for pets, which remains illegal under federal law, over concerns of putting their professional licenses at risk, said Dr. Jeffrey Pow-

ers, chair of the American Veterinary Medical Association's subcommittee on cannabinoids. That leaves it to pet owners themselves to make life-altering decisions about dosing and duration of the treatment.

Change could come soon to California, which appears ready to pass the nation's first law giving veterinarians the legal cover they need to answer questions about using pot for pets.

"A human can get their doctor's advice but a dog can't, legally. It's bizarre," said Judy Boyle, 62, of Beaver Island, Michigan, whose dog Mac had for years been taking traditional prescription medicines for arthritis and anxiety. The cumulative effect of those drugs was causing Mac's liver to fail.

Research on her home computer convinced Boyle in March to instead regularly give her 40-pound Australian

Cattle Dog cannabinoid dog chews. Five months later, he's a much calmer yet more energetic dog, and his liver function has returned to normal for the first time in years, Boyle said.

80%

Of respondents said they bought hemp or marijuana products for their dogs.

Cannabidiol — a cannabis plant extract also known as CBD — is the featured ingredient in hemp oils, chews and other pet products that are more popular than ever. CBD is associated with pain relief, as opposed to THC, the ingredient in marijuana which at higher concentrations is associated with euphoric "high" feelings.

Since the federal government still bans cannabis as a controlled

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New Yorker Timmy Thok, who sent two people to the hospital because of his cooking, very well could be the worst cook to ever appear on "Worst Cooks in America." ALL PHOTOS FOOD NETWORK

This New Yorker might be the worst cook to ever be on 'Worst Cooks in America'

While we don't yet know if contestant Timmy Thok makes it to the finale of "Worst Cooks in America," he may have already won worst cook in NYC.



NIKKI M. MASCALI
nikki.mascali@metro.us

The new season of "Worst Cooks in America" doesn't premiere until Sunday, but if contestant Timmy Thok doesn't make it to the finale, he very well is a frontrunner for the worst cook in New York City.

When the 30-year-old bartender/underwear model ventures into the kitchen, it's a health hazard as he's sent both his boyfriend and his roommate to the hospital after feeding them spoiled meat — which he got at a dollar store — and uncooked chicken.

"Now, I just don't even bother. I'm not sending anybody else to the hospital!" Thok said. "They both told all my friends, so when we have potluck dinners, everybody says, 'Timmy, you just bring drinks!'"

Unfortunately for Thok, he won't be

able to bring or sling any drinks on Season 14 of "Worst Cooks in America," which airs at 9 p.m. Sunday on Food Network. This season's seven episodes will be a rematch between chefs Anne Burrell and Robert Irvine, who last went head-to-head in Season 2 in 2011.

So how did Thok, who said he has "zero confidence" in the kitchen, wind up on "Worst Cooks in America," which is a bootcamp style competition that aims to help contestants improve their cooking skills?

"I never signed up for the show, my boyfriend nominated me," he said with a laugh. "I'm super-excited, but embarrassed that I'm here."

Throughout Season 14 of "Worst Cooks in America," Thok and the other competitors are tasked with making surf and turf, hibachi, chicken, fresh squid ink pasta, duck and a tiered cake before the final two face off with a three-course meal in the Sept. 23 finale. The winner of that blind taste test nabs \$25,000.

"The most intimidating part is you go into this multi-million-dollar kitchen that you've never seen before, you only see on TV, and there's all these chef's knives that are hundreds of dollars, cameras everywhere, the timer is clicking, the chefs are yelling at you," Thok said. "That's not normal, but it was something else!"



Season 14 of "Worst Cooks in America" begins Sunday at 9 p.m. on Food Network.



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Pat King
Grumble Editor

It's time to announce our Grumble of the week. This week's winner is Metro New York reader **Paula K.** for her Grumble defending the rights of pedestrians. Congrats! You will be receiving a

\$25 gift card to Amazon Prime from Metro. Keep sending your grumbles to grumble@metro.us for your chance to win!

READER WRITE-INS:

WEARING PLASTIC GLOVES DOES NOT SOLVE EVERYTHING!

I guess the health department (the same one that can give a restaurant an A when they have roaches but a B because they have a newspaper on the counter) makes a lot of workers at bakeries and delis wear gloves ... but wearing them is often LESS sanitary. I have seen countless people wearing gloves touch the cash register, their hair, and most offensively, some oozy smelly cheese pizza, cold cuts and THEN touch my blueberry muffin.

And THEN touch one of those things AGAIN. I usually have to ask them to use the tissue paper even with their gloves on ... in reality if they just frequently wash their hands AND use tissue paper, that is much better with

little danger of contamination or cross-flavor issues!
- Steven Jay, Metro US reader

DISAPPEARING PACKAGES!
My grumble is with the Postal Service. Is it getting lazier or

what? Many of my neighbors and I have had several package DISAPPEAR or have been sent back or not show up at all. It's convenient to shop online but it is becoming too frustrating to deal with the many problems of

the GRUMBLE



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actually getting the mail. What happened to the days of leaving a slip or notice to pick up your package at the actual post office. I don't know what's going on but someone needs to do a better job with the mail.

- Melinda Tirado, Metro New York reader

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The winning caption from Joe Paru, Metro Boston reader

MONDAY'S PHOTO:



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metro.us/horoscopes



Aries Focus on personal gains and physical improvements. Don't let anyone discourage you from spending time or money to get ahead. Invest in you.



Taurus Don't act on an emotional whim. An added expense will leave you scrambling later in the month. Protect against theft and impractical moves.



Gemini Spend more time working out details that will help you avoid an expense you can avoid with proper planning. Personal improvements should be a priority.



Cancer Take the time to find out where you stand. Ask questions and discuss your intentions and plans with someone who can affect your decision.



Leo If you push yourself, the satisfaction and results you get will be outstanding and will keep anyone trying to distract you in his or her place. Focus and win.



Virgo Emotional or physical support can be just as compelling as financial aid, and can offer greater satisfaction for both you and the individual you assist.



Libra Get moving. Make a point to take care of business that is hanging over your head. Don't wait until someone else steps in and takes charge. Live up to your expectations.



Scorpio Consider what's at stake before you make a move that is likely to cause trouble between you and someone you care about. Diplomacy will be required.



Sagittarius Chase your dream. Activate your plans. Look forward and own whatever you do. Your passionate and timely gestures will have an impact on what's to come.



Capricorn Know what you want and make whatever changes are required to reach your goal. Personal gratification will come from following through with your plans.



Aquarius Share your enthusiasm with others, but don't let anyone take control or entice you to expand too quickly or take on too much. Stick to your set plans.



Pisces Look for the best way to expand your interests. Calling in a favor or reconnecting with someone you have enjoyed working with in the past will be beneficial. EUGENIA LAST

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WKND

The actor opens up about working with Spike Lee, Jordan Peele's involvement and more.



GREGORY WAKEMAN
Gregory.Wakeman@metro.us

John David Washington was never actually offered the part of Det. Ron Stallworth in "BlacKkKlansman." Instead, Spike Lee, who previously directed his famous father, Denzel, in four movies, "just said, 'See you this summer,'" Washington recalls. "That is how I got the job."

Not that Washington would have turned Lee down. He immediately recognized the opportunity and importance of the film, which tells the true story of how an African American detective infiltrated the Ku Klux Klan,



"BlacKkKlansman" tells the true story of how an African-American detective infiltrated the KKK. BLUMHOUSE PRODUCTIONS

speaking over the phone with members, including then-Grand Wizard David Duke, while sending in an undercover white officer.

"The fact that Jordan Peele and Spike Lee are on this project with this particular subject mat-

ter it was a no-brainer to be a part of it," he says. "It couldn't have been in more responsible hands. This script, I don't think I would have wanted to be a part of it if it weren't for these men. I think they are the only men that can

handle this subject matter and do it responsibly."

"It could have gone off the rails if you had tried to hit buttons or be too suggestive or preachy or overtly artistic," Washington adds. "They are great storytellers. They seem

to have a passion for the process and the process of storytelling, which was appropriate for the subject matter. So I thank God he was involved in a major way."

While Washington didn't get to meet Peele, he waxed lyrical about every other detail of "BlacKkKlansman's" production. First of all there was Lee, David Rabinowitz, Charlie Wachtel and Kevin Willmott's script, which Washington was "impressed by for many different reasons," but primarily because it "didn't try to manipulate the story."

"They didn't try to add things that would make it a more cinematic experience but would take away from the film and the story," he says. "Because it is a true story and is supported by facts and by people that are actually living, we had our foundation that was there."

Once he finally got in

front of the camera, even Washington was surprised at just how inclusive the shooting process was, especially when it came to working with the legendary Lee.

"We were all on the same page here. What I learned from Spike is legend, because legend told me to trust myself. So when a hero tells you to do that, you do it," Washington says. "And I'm glad I did it because it all worked out for the best. It was the most freeing experience I have ever had and the most freeing performance and the loosest performance I have ever delivered."

"I have been wanting to deliver more loose performances, but I haven't been able to, because of the different types of direction," he adds. "But in this case, I was in, because a legend told me to do so."

"BlacKkKlansman" opens in theaters Aug. 10.

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This mega-shark would even scare Jaws. WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Why it took 20 years to bring 'The Meg' to the big screen

Steve Alten talks us through his story of a 75-foot prehistoric shark wreaking havoc.



GREGORY WAKEMAN
Gregory.Wakeman@metro.us

Over past 22 years, every time writer Steve Alten has visited the cinema with his wife, he has turned to her during the previews and said, "One day we will be watching the preview for my movie."

How difficult was it bringing the book to the big screen?

When I finished it I sought out agents to handle it, and only one agent was interested. He took the book out and actually got a pre-publish, first look deal with a studio. So the first dramatic rights for "The Meg" were actually sold back in 1996 a month

before the book rights were sold. But what happened then with Disney is that we went through two drafts of the screenplay and then the head of the studio was fired. When a new president comes in they never take the old guy's stuff, so the rights reverted back to me.

And then in 2004 I talked to a friend of mine, Nick Nuziata, who was the founder of a website about movies that were in development, and he showed the book to Guillermo Del Toro and Lloyd Levin, the producer of "Hellboy." They optioned it from me for a \$1, while I wrote the script with Jan De Bont, who was brought in to direct. That package was sold to New Line Cinemas back in 2005. The problem there was that they hired a new screenwriter ... who decided to go off on his own and write a com-

pletely different story, which didn't make any sense. He sort of wrote "Moby Dick" but with a giant shark. Horrible.

So, fortunately, the rights reverted back to me two years later, so I got in contact with producer Belle Avery, her forte was raising money, who took to Gravity Pictures in China, who took it to Warner Bros, and finally we were on the right track.

How does it feel to finally see "The Meg" in theaters?

Obviously I am thrilled, flattered and humbled. I have Parkinson's diseases, so that makes it a little harder to enjoy, but I get through that. I am really looking forward to seeing the movie at the premiere. All I have seen is the trailers, but they have me jacked up about it.

"The Meg" opens in theaters Aug. 10.

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Where will 'Fear the Walking Dead' go in season 4's second half?

Following the midseason finale's monumental loss, the AMC series is trying new things.



ANDREW HUSBAND
letters@metro.us

The fourth season of AMC's "The Walking Dead" spin-off series, "Fear the Walking Dead," was already making big changes in its April premiere. A major time jump and several new characters were indicative of the new showrunners' approach to the show, as was the death of Nick Clark (Frank Dillane), who had been a part of the program since season one.

These major changes came to a head in the mid-season premiere in June, when "Fear the Walking Dead" series lead Kim Dickens' character Madison Clark, the mother of Nick, died while sacrificing herself to save her children. All the while, the show employed a sometimes confusing array of flashbacks and flash-forwards that left audiences asking, "What's going on?"

This Sunday, the second half of "Fear the Walking Dead" season four will premiere on AMC. We have no idea if it will provide any satisfactory answers for this and other questions, though judging by a few clips teasing things to come, and occasional comments from showrunners Ian Goldberg and Andrew Chambliss, something is coming. Here are a few predictions about what

that might be.

The dead and the living aren't the only threats

In an interview with TV Guide, Goldberg and Chambliss revealed "a big part of what our characters are going to be up against is Mother Nature herself." They cautioned that the remaining characters will face "threats that we've seen before," but they'll be doing so "under even more dire circumstances than we've seen in the past." A recent teaser and a new clip released by AMC indicate as much. In the latter, John Dorie (Garret Dillahunt), Naomi (Jenna Elfman) and Althea (Maggie Grace) encountering what looks like a storm surge in a river.



Another crossover may be in the works...

The arrival of Morgan Jones (Lennie James) in the season four premiere, and subsequent episodes, presented "Fear the Walking Dead" with a major "The Walking Dead" crossover. Since the somewhat deranged traveler's departure from the latter's Alexandria stronghold, audiences have been left to ponder if, and when, another crossover would

happen. As former "The Walking Dead" showrunner Scott Gimple told audiences at the 2018 San Diego Comic-Con, fans shouldn't "expect" another one, "but things could happen."

...because Morgan wants to leave...

Adding fuel to the cross-over fire is the fact that, per a midseason premiere clip previewed exclusively by TV Guide, it seems Morgan wants to go back to Alexandria. "I'm heading back east in the morning," he tells Alicia Clark (Alicia Debnam-Carey), the surviving daughter of Madison. "Heading back where I came from, and I think you should come along. I think it would be good for you, and I think you could do a lot of good there."

...and Alicia may go with him

Whether or not Morgan actually manages to return to the setting of "The Walking Dead" this season remains to be seen. The same goes for whether or not Alicia decides to join him following the monstrous losses she has already suffered. And judging by her haunted looks in a recent teaser, Alicia just might decide to go, if not take some other kind of drastic action. "They were united by one thing, and that was revenge, and they're all suffering," Chambliss told TV Guide. "So going forward they're going to be asking themselves questions about what is next."

The second half of "Fear the Walking Dead" season 4 premieres Sunday, Aug. 12, at 9 p.m. on AMC.



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Ready to play?

Everything you need to know about Play NYC, New York City's biggest festival of indie video games returning this weekend.



EVA KIS
eva.kis@metro.us

New York City's largest video game expo Play NYC only debuted in 2017, but Play NYC 2018 is already bigger in every way: more games, more digital art, more play-time, a bigger venue and a new social mission. In its new home at the Hammerstein Ballroom, Play NYC 2018 is going down Aug. 11-12 featuring nearly 150 games by dozens of indie developers from the five boroughs for every platform, from apps to PC games, consoles from Xbox One to the Nintendo Switch, and virtual reality on all the popular rigs including Oculus and PSVR.

We asked Dan Butchko, founder of Play NYC and CEO of Playcrafting, a website where developers can learn to code, network and market their games, for all the details about New York's largest video game convention.

What's new for Play NYC 2018?

Play NYC 2017 fit 5,000 people into Terminal 5 during its inaugural year, which is going up to 10,000 people for Play NYC 2018 at the Hammerstein Ballroom.

Attendees can choose between two sessions each day to give you more time to play all the games — don't miss Unicornelia, which has you physically step into the hooves of a unicorn and use your horn to complete tasks! "Thanks to the new space, we've been able to add another full floor of games, with almost 40 more exhibitors than last year," says Butchko. "The space itself is a great place to grow the show for years to come, with the ultimate goal to take over additional venues inside the Manhattan Center."

Panels have also been opened up to all attendees, with a main stage where developer interviews, game announce-



ments, special guests, live gameplay and more will take place right on the expo floor.

What makes Play NYC different

Play NYC focuses on independent developers who would be overshadowed at other conventions by the big players like Blizzard and Epic Games. Think of it as the mom-and-pop game convention, where you're getting a chance to play games with surprising and unconventional concepts.

"I like to call New York the 'final frontier of games' in the U.S.," says Butchko. "New

York City features thousands of creators who are actively making and releasing games, even without the government-funded tax incentives places considered meccas of game development like Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle receive."

While a few big players have a presence in the city, notably Avalanche Studios, the lack of financial incentives have allowed small to medium independent studios to thrive.

Play NYC is as much for them as it is for you: These developers often don't have the funds to pay beta testers, so expect to try out some in-progress games at the convention with developers who are eager for

your feedback.

A new social mission

Outside of eSports, video games are still seen as the realm of young white men — but looking around at the Play NYC crowd will show you immediately that gamers come in all ages, races and genders.

"We've done a number of initiatives to further promote inclusivity and diversity in games, including our annual Women In Games event, support of GaymerX and other initiatives," says Butchko. "But given the current climate, we really wanted to make a statement with this year's Graffiti Games initiative."

Housed inside the

Hammerstein Ballroom's opera boxes, Graffiti Games are essentially augmented reality games projected onto walls and floors. Play NYC 2018 commissioned eight all-ages titles by immigrant developers, including Bizarre Barber where you cut hair in a "surreal barbershop," a driving game where your obstacles are U.S. immigration red tape called Home Stretch and 127BPM, where you use a DDR pad to keep pace with New York City pedestrians.

Play NYC 2018 takes place Aug. 11-12 in four sessions, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. or 3-8 p.m. at the Hammerstein Ballroom, 311 W. 34th St. Tickets are \$33 at ticketmaster.com.



The show floor has grown to nearly 150 games, with capacity for 10,000 gamers. PROVIDED

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YOUR WEEKEND STARTS NOW

A sexy take on Shakespeare, with food

Shakespeare in the Square isn't quite traditional; in fact, instead of laughter or sadness, their productions tend to provoke unexpected feelings—like hunger. This August, a cast of six performs all 20 characters in A Midsummer Night's Dream. Their only props are food, from marshmallows to mashed potatoes, oats to oranges. Seeing how they're juggled, cradled, weaponized and otherwise transformed for each scene is part of the messy, erotic fun. **Through Aug. 19, The Access Theater, 380 Broadway, \$30-\$45, shakespeareinthesquare.com**

Revel in the embarrassment of others

If you've passed a few hours suffering happily through the new Netflix series *Mortified*, where talented comedians and storytellers recount their most humiliating stories onstage, you'll be thrilled to know that you can experience that secondhand embarrassment firsthand with a live performance of *Mortified* at Littlefield this Thursday. Seats are first-come,

first-served. **Aug. 10, 8 p.m., Littlefield, 635 Sackett St., Brooklyn, \$10, littlefieldnyc.com**

Immersive theater goes outdoors

You could pack a picnic and check out an outdoor movie in one of the city's parks—or you could head to the tropical outdoor dance hall Brooklyn Mirage for an immersive screening of *The Fifth Element* with projection effects, a 32-foot screen, an interactive photobooth of movie scenes, an ice cream social and lots of cookout food, a post-show dance party, and a full cocktail menu of tropical drinks that will make you think you're aboard the *Floston Paradise*, all courtesy of BBQ Films. **Aug. 10, 6-11 p.m., 140 Stewart Ave., Brooklyn, \$14-\$50, eventbrite.com**

Hear a new take on West Side Story

Bobby Sanabria's Multiverse Big Band adds some modern flair while playing through Leonard Bernstein's classic in *West Side Story Reimagined*. Infusing the score with fresh Latin sounds—like Afro-Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican, and Mexican rock,



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The most scenic dance fest

The Battery Dance Festival can lay claim to have the most scenic venue in the city: All of its free performances happen outdoors in Battery Park with the Statue of Liberty as the backdrop. The week of performances all take place at sundown, with diverse styles from international companies including the Martha Graham School, Ballet Nepantla, and Jamal Jackson Dance Company, as well as workshops at Battery Dance Studios (with RSVP). Capping it off is a free Closing Night event at the Schimmel Center, with a VIP reception for \$65. **Aug. 11-18, multiple locations, free-\$65, batterydance.org**

funk and jazz—the concert is accompanied by live poetry readings and takes place blocks from where the acclaimed movie was filmed. Proceeds will go to the Jazz Foundation of America Puerto Rico Relief Fund. **Aug. 10, 7:30 p.m., Damrosch Park, 70 Lincoln Center Plaza, free, lcoutdoors.org**

Eat the world's best gelato

For the first time, Italy is exporting its famous Gelato Festival from its hometown of Florence to the East Coast. It's worth the trek to Jersey City to sample the creations of a dozen of the world's best gelato makers, including a local star, all challenged to come up with unique creations just for the

festival. Between tastings, drop into the Gelato School to see how it's made, test your skills to see if you could crack it in a gelateria, watch chef demos and more. **Aug. 11-12, Liberty State Park, 1 Audrey Zapp Drive, Jersey City, \$30, eventbrite.com**

The buzziest weekend activity

Have you heard the buzz? It's all about bees and their highly popular product this weekend at Wave Hill in the Bronx. Honey Weekend has activities for all ages, from honey-extraction and candle-making workshops to tasting sessions, plus arts & crafts. Whether you've got a sweet tooth or just into beekeeping, Honey Weekend is all about education

and hands-on fun. **Aug. 11, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Wave Hill, W. 249th Ave. at Independence Ave., Bronx, \$12, wavehill.org**

Try out the latest music gear

Whether you love to personally shred some axe or just find that every playlist you love leans heavy on guitar, from acoustic American folk to ear-splitting electric rock, you'll be in heaven at the Fear the Riff Expo. Over 70 companies will show off their latest instruments, amps and other accessories, catch celebrities like Ozzy Osbourne's guitarist Zakk Wylde doing appearances and even performances, plus cocktails, craft beer, tacos and barbecue. **Aug. 11, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.,**

Brooklyn Expo Center, 79 Franklin St., \$10-\$40, feartheriff.com

Comedy = tragedy + time

Comedian Zach Zimmerman wants you to know that he's very, very gay. That's despite growing up Christian, with conservative parents, and hitting the big city in the time of Grindr. But it's okay to laugh about it now, especially with a drink in hand. Union Hall debuts his scathing show, *I Started as a Bottom, Now I'm Here*, which might be about him, but it's really about the determined queers in us all, surviving their way to the top. **Aug. 12, 7:30 p.m., Union Hall, 702 Union St., Brooklyn, \$8-\$10, unionhallnyc.com**

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You don't have to explain it to us. Working a nine-to-five during the summer can be downright mentally and spiritually exhausting. Sometimes you just need to get away from it all at least for the weekend. On top of that, sometimes you just need a glass of wine or two. So why not combine the two? Here are some of the best wine tours to help you get away from the city this summer.

Back Bay Wine Tasting and Walking Tour

Where: Boston

Cost: \$70

This walking wine tour will pair you with a knowledgeable and eager tour guide who will show you the best wines available in downtown Boston. Over

Cost: \$20 plus the cost of wine
Just 45 minutes outside Philly in the Brandywine Valley the Chaddsford Winery "Reserve & Tasting Tour" is the best wine-tasting trip you can book if you are looking to get out of city for the day. Tickets for this tour will cost you \$20 if you book in advance and you will get special access to special prices on dry red wine, dry white wine, and sweet wine flights.

For more information and to schedule your own wine tours, head over to chaddsford.com.

Day Trip to Wine Country

Where: Long Island,
New York

Cost: \$155-\$165

Who says that the only way to get the full vineyard experience you need to go to Napa Valley? New Yorkers can take this round-trip bus ride from just outside of Grand Central station for one best all-inclusive wine tours on the East Coast. Guests will be treated to samples, small bites and discounts on bottles from each stop at Jamesport Vineyards, Palmer Vineyards, Martha Clara Vineyards, Pellegrini Vineyards, Pindar Vineyards and Leniz Winerv.

The "Day Trip to Wine Country" will be booking wine tours up until November, so make sure to head over to newyorkwineevents.com for availability.

two hours, you will be educated on the best blends and pairings of local cuisines. Starting at the rustic Post 390 and walking nearly 2 miles to the famous Legal Sea Foods with its 10,000-bottle selection, this is one of the more educational wine tours you are likely to find on the East Coast.

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Water to Wine Day Tours

Where: Cayuga Lake,
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Cost: \$99-\$109

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FANTASY FOOTBALL ADVICE

OPINION

BILL DUBIEL

Bill Dubiel is a fantasy football expert at Rotoballer.com and Metro.us



Welcome back fantasy football fans! With the preseason games upon us, it's time to start getting ready to chase another championship. Don't forget to check out Rotoballer.com for all of the tools you need to get the edge on your league mates.

Don't sleep on Meredith

Former Bears wideout Cameron Meredith has evolved into a sneaky late-round flier that could end up being a huge difference-maker for fantasy owners wise enough to invest in him. Meredith missed the 2017 season with a torn ACL and MCL, and fantasy owners don't seem to have fully embraced the notion of a triumphant return, which seems more likely than not. He has already been designated the number two receiver behind Michael Thomas, and in a high-flying, Drew Brees-led offense that position carries plenty of

fantasy value. Meredith shone in his last full season with the Bears, hanging a 66-888-4 line across 14 games (only 10 of which he started in), and at just 25 he's certainly got plenty of gas in the tank. Meredith is a terrific bet to return WR3 value with an even higher ceiling in 2018, and should absolutely be on your radar in Round 10 or later.

Graham's price tag

Jimmy Graham is currently coming off the board as the TE4, and his ADP is hovering right around the 53rd pick overall, which is simply too high for him to end up on any team that I own this year. Graham is now 31 years old, and the days of 1,000-yard seasons are well in the rear view mirror at this point. What has most people

high on Graham is obvious—he's got Aaron Rodgers throwing to him. However, I still fail to see much upside with that, and certainly not enough to burn a pick in Round 4 or Round 5. Graham was mostly useless outside of the red zone last year, accumulating just 520 receiving yards on 57 catches.

Draft sleepers

Kalen Ballage, RB, Miami Dolphins - Kenyan Drake showed out at the end of last season, but Ballage is a big-bodied bruiser who actually has solid receiving chops.

Aaron Jones, RB, Green Bay Packers - Jamaal Williams filled in admirably last year, but Aaron Jones is the true talent in the Green Bay backfield. It may take a few weeks for him to break through, but I expect Jones to be the back you want by Week 6.



Former Chicago Bear Cameron Meredith is now a member of the New Orleans Saints. GETTY IMAGES

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Panarin a good fit for the Islanders?

The Blue Jackets could be traded before hitting free agency.



JOE PANTORNO
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Columbus Blue Jackets left winger Artemi Panarin's future in Ohio doesn't seem like it will last very long.

The 26-year-old Russian winger, who was traded to the Blue Jackets last season from the Chicago Blackhawks after two productive seasons, continued to prove that he is a serviceable top-six scoring option last year with 27 goals and 55 assists for a career-high 82 points.

Entering the final year of his contract in 2018-19, Panarin has not made much progress on extension talks with Columbus, reportedly giving the team a Sept. 13 deadline to negoti-



Artemi Panarin could soon be on the move. GETTY IMAGES

ate a new deal, per the Athletic.

With negotiations all but nonexistent for

most of this summer, Panarin has seen his name crop up in trade talks over the past

six weeks, which will likely become the new norm for many pending free agents after John

Tavares burned the New York Islanders to sign with his hometown Toronto Maple Leafs on Jul. 1.

The Islanders were listed as possible suitors for Panarin in initial trade rumors last month as the team is still looking for a way to replace the offensive firepower that walked out of the door with Tavares' departure. The 27-year-old former captain put up the second-best season of his career in 2017-18, recording 37 goals and 47 assists.

With reigning Calder Trophy winner Mathew Barzal now the new face of the franchise, it is imperative the Islanders bring in further support to take pressure off the second-year man as well as Jordan Eberle and 40-goal scorer Anders Lee.

But even if the Islanders wound up pulling off what seems like an unlikely trade for Panarin this summer, it

could be a short stay in New York.

A report from the Athletic's Scott Powers revealed that Panarin would "seriously consider" a reunion with the Blackhawks, the team he won the Calder Trophy with in 2016. Panarin chose the Blackhawks when he was a free agent prior to the 2015-16 season when he came over from the KHL, Russia's top league before salary cap issues forced the team to deal him last year.

The problem is that Panarin is expected to make much more in his next contract than the \$6 million he's slated to make this year. Chicago might not have that kind of money unless general manager Stan Bowman pulls off an impressive shuffling act. The Islanders, on the other hand, would have no issue as the team currently has almost \$30 million in cap space.

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Should Knicks target Thompson in 2019?

The third wheel of the Warriors dynasty will be a free agent next year.



JOE PANTORNO
joseph.pantorno@metro.us

Golden State Warriors shooting guard Klay Thompson might be playing second or third fiddle to Stephen Curry and Kevin Durant by the Bay, but that doesn't mean he won't be paid like a superstar come next summer.

The four-time All-Star is entering the final year of his four-year, \$68.9 million deal where he'll become an unrestricted free agent next summer, joining a loaded class that is also likely to include Durant, Kawhi Leonard, Kyrie Irving and Kemba Walker.

Thompson hasn't necessarily tipped his hand on whether or not he would leave Golden



Klay Thompson will be a free agent next summer. GETTY IMAGES

State, but he did admit to Bleacher Report's Ric Bucher that "it would be hard for me to envision going anywhere else."

That would entail taking a hometown discount in free agency, which isn't

unprecedented considering Durant signed a cheaper deal with the Warriors last year to keep the core together.

However, Thompson would be offered an opportunity to not just

sign a max deal but to become a leading man of a franchise, two incentives which could be hard to turn down.

There will be plenty of interest once he hits the market, too.

Los Angeles Lakers

With the organization trending upwards once again and with the best player on the planet wearing purple and gold, the Lakers will be able to create one of the strongest pitches for free agents next summer. Not only will you have a chance to play in one of the nicest, most glamorous cities in the country, but you'll get to play alongside one of the greatest players of all-time.

New York Knicks

While the Lakers are trending up, the Knicks are likely to stay near the bottom of the Eastern Conference for at least another season.

With Kristaps Porzingis recovering from a torn ACL that could keep him out until at least February, New York will be trotting out an unimpressive lineup almost every night. But rookie Kevin

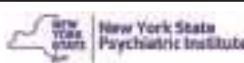
Knox could very well be a future star in the NBA, which would create a youthful one-two punch alongside Porzingis for the Knicks in 2019. President Steve Mills and general manager Scott Perry are also making room for two max-salary slots next summer, which means the Knicks are going to be a common name in negotiations for big stars.

Oklahoma City Thunder

With Paul George and Russell Westbrook signed for the long haul, the Oklahoma City Thunder are two solid pieces away from legitimately joining the conversation as a premier Western Conference team alongside the Warriors and Houston Rockets. OKC is in need of a serious upgrade at the shooting guard position as Andre Roberson doesn't provide much of an offensive threat at 2.

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LEGAL NOTICES**NOTICE OF FORMATION**

of LZ66 LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secy. of State of New York (SSNY) on June 4, 2018. Office location: Bronx County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC c/o 704 Brook Ave., #2M, Bronx, NY 10455. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

LEGAL NOTICES**NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT
QUEENS COUNTY**

WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, DOING BUSINESS AS CHRISTIANA TRUST, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY, BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE FOR BCAT 2015-13BTT, Plaintiff against THE UNKNOWN HEIRS-AT-LAW, NEXT-OF-KIN, DISTRIBUTEES, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, TRUSTEES, DEVISEES, LEGATEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, AND SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST, AND GENERALLY ALL PERSONS HAVING OR CLAIMING, UNDER, BY OR THROUGH THE DECEDENT JESTINA DELORES ALLEN, BY PURCHASE, INHERITANCE, LIEN OR OTHERWISE, ANY RIGHT TITLE OR INTEREST IN AND TO THE PREMISES DESCRIBED IN THE COMPLAINT HEREIN, et al Defendants

Attorney for Plaintiff(s) Knuckles, Komosinski & Manfro, LLP 565 Taxter Road, Suite 590, Elmsford, NY 10523
Attorney(s) for Plaintiff(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale Entered July 13, 2018 I will sell at Public Auction to the highest bidder at the Queens County Supreme Court, 88-11 Sutphin Blvd., Jamaica, New York 11435, in Courtroom #25 on September 7, 2018 at 10:00 AM. Premises known as 121-01 199th Street, St. Albans, New York. Block 12687 Lot 38. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Queens, City and State of New York. Approximate Amount of Judgment is \$524,604.90 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index No 704252/2014. Cash will not be accepted at the sale. Sub-Referee 2296-000604.

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT: QUEENS COUNTY. NYCTL 2015-A TRUST AND THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, AS COLLATERAL AGENT AND CUSTODIAN FOR NYCTL 2015-A TRUST, Pltf. Vs. CYNTHIA HOPKINS, et al, Defpts. Index # 702353-2016. Pursuant to judgment of foreclosure and sale dated Sept. 6, 2016, I will sell at public auction in Courtroom #25 of the Queens County Supreme Court, 88-11 Sutphin Blvd., Jamaica, NY on Friday, Aug. 17, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. prem. k/a Block 11012, Lot 66. Sold subject to terms and conditions of filed judgment and terms of sale. MICHAEL DIKMAN, Referee, LEVY & LEVY, Attnys. For Pltf., 12 Tulip Drive, Great Neck, NY #95111

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number 1311865, for Beer & Wine has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Beer & Wine at retail under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 66 Washington Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11205. Kings County, for on premises consumption. 66 Wine Bar LLC.

LEGAL NOTICES**NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT**

COUNTY OF QUEENS HSBC Bank USA, National Association as Indenture Trustee for First NLC Trust 2005-3, - against- Mohammed Rasheed, Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for First Continental Mortgage and Investment Corp., New York City Environmental Control Board, New York City Transit Adjudication Bureau, Ryans Express Equities Inc., Worldwide Asset Purchasing, LLC, Reeno Sumra, Defendant(s) Pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure and sale entered on January 29, 2018 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction to the highest bidder at QUEENS COUNTY SUPREME COURT, 88-11 SUTPHIN BOULEVARD, JAMAICA, NEW YORK, IN COURTROOM #25 on August 24, 2018 at 10:00 AM premises known as 101 44 125th Street, South Richmond Hill, NY 11419- 2202. ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of QUEENS, City and State of New York. Block: 9491 Lot: 28 Approximate amount of lien \$528,609.00 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment Index # 13107/2009 Michael Dikman, Esq. , REFEREE STEIN, WEINER AND ROTH, L.L.P. ATTORNEYS FOR THE PLAINTIFF ONE OLD COUNTRY ROAD, SUITE 113 CARLE PLACE, NY 11514 DATED: July 19, 2018

NOTICE OF SALE

IN FORECLOSURE STATE OF NEW YORK SUPREME COURT: COUNTY OF QUEENS WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A., SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO WACHOVIA MORTGAG, FSB, Plaintiff, vs. GEORGE ANTHONY JENKINS A/K/A GEORGE A. JENKINS, LISA K. JENKINS, et al., Defendants PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT in pursuance of a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the office of the County Clerk of Queens County on April 26, 2018, I, Judah Maltz, Esq., the Referee named in said Judgment, will sell in one parcel at public auction on August 24, 2018 at the Queens County Courthouse, court room #25, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, County of Queens, State of New York, at 10:00 A.M., the premises described as follows: 121- 09 196th STREET Jamaica, NY 11413 Block: 12682 Lot: 45 ALL THAT TRACT OF PARCEL OF LAND situate in the Borough and County of Queens, City and State of New York The premises are sold subject to the provisions of the filed judgment, Index No. 21365/12 in the amount of \$426,233.95 plus interest and costs. Kathryn E. Assini, Esq., Woods Ottavitt Gilman LLP Plaintiff's Attorney 700 Crossroads Building, 2 State St. Rochester, New York 14614 Tel.: 855-227-5072 55924

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LEGAL NOTICES**NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT**

COUNTY OF QUEENS HSBC BANK USA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR NOMURA ASSET ACCEPTANCE CORPORATION MORTGAGE PASS THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2005-AP3, Plaintiff AGAINST PATRICIA SALDANA, et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated April 16, 2018 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Queens County Courthouse in Courtroom # 25, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York, on September 07, 2018 at 10:00AM, premises known as 3332 102ND STREET, CORONA, NY 11368. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Queens, City and State of New York, BLOCK 1716, LOT 22. Approximate amount of judgment \$1,145,098.98 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment for Index# 9111/10. Dominic A Villoni, Esq., Referee Gross Polowy, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100 Williamsville, NY 14221 55856.

NOTICE OF SALE

Supreme Court County of Queens. Wells Fargo Bank National Association, as Trustee for Certificate Holders of Bear Sterns Asset Backed Securities I LLC, Asset Backed Certificates, Series 2007-AC4, Plaintiff AGAINST Yomi Jagunna f/k/a Tajudeen A. Jagunna, et al, Defendant Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 5/31/2017 and entered on 6/12/2017, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at the Queens County Courthouse, 88-11 Sutphin Blvd., in Courtroom 25, Jamaica, NY on August 17, 2018 at 10:00 AM premises known as 120-11 67th Street, Jamaica, NY 11434. All that certain plot piece or parcel Of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the County Of Queens, City and State of New York, BLOCK: 12383, LOT: 46. Approximate amount of judgment is \$431,014.34 plus interests and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 006243/2010. Alan C. Kestenbaum, Referee FRENKEL LAMBERT WEISS WEISMAN & GORDON LLP 55 Gibson Street Bay Shore, NY 11706

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LEGAL NOTICES**NOTICE OF SALE**

SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF QUEENS Federal National Mortgage Association ("Fannie Mae"), a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the United States of America, Plaintiff AGAINST Byeong Chung a/k/a Byeong J Chung a/k/a Byeong Jo Chung; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated September 28, 2016 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Queens County Supreme Court, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11435 in Courtroom #25, on August 24, 2018 at 10:00AM, premises known as 5-05 Schorr Drive, Apt. 39C, a/k/a 5-05 129th Street, Apt. 39C, College Point, NY 11356. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Queens, City and State of NY. Block: 3930 Lot: 1039. Approximate amount of judgment \$479,341.37 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 712425/2016. Donna Furey, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 759-1835 Dated: July 13, 2018 55977

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF QUEENS Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, Plaintiff AGAINST Dawn Matrochano a/k/a Dawn M. Matrochano; James Matrochano a/k/a James R. Matrochano; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated May 22, 2018 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Queens County Supreme Courthouse, Courtroom #25, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York on August 31, 2018 at 10:00AM, premises known as 163-46 92nd Street, Howard Beach a/k/a Jamaica, NY 11414. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Queens, City and State of NY, Block: 14075 Lot: 77. Approximate amount of judgment \$604,355.07 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 713085/2017. Kerry Katsorhis, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 759-1835 Dated: June 11, 2018

NOTICE OF FORMATION

of BJL 2017, LLC. Articles of Org. filed with the Secy. of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/18/2017. Office location: New York County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC c/o 50 West 29th St. Suite 7E, New York NY 10001 which is also the principal business location. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

LEGAL NOTICES**NOTICE OF SALE**

SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF QUEENS JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, Plaintiff AGAINST Tarbita Benjamin; Monique Benjamin; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated May 31, 2017 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Queens County Supreme Courthouse, Courtroom #25, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York on August 24, 2018 at 10:00AM, premises known as 145-95 178th Place, Jamaica, NY 11434. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Queens, City and State of NY. Block: 13342 Lot: 36. Approximate amount of judgment \$339,307.90 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 712425/2016. Michael Dikman, Esq., Referee Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, NY 14624 (877) 759-1835 Dated: June 18, 2018 For sale information, please visit Servicelinkauction.com or call (866) 539-4173 55259

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF QUEENS WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A., Plaintiff AGAINST MARINA T. RODRIGUEZ, et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated January 12, 2018 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Queens County Courthouse in Courtroom #25, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York, on August 31, 2018 at 10:00AM, premises known as 118-62 RIVERTON STREET, SAINT ALBANS, NY 11412. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Queens, City and State of New York, BLOCK 12451, LOT 38. Approximate amount of judgment \$348,764.43 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment for Index# 20871/13. Kerry J. Katsorhis, Esq., Referee Gross Polowy, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100 Williamsville, NY 14221 55458

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number 1312562, for Liquor, Beer, Wine & Cider has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Liquor, Beer, Wine & Cider at retail in a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 73-18 Northern Blvd., Jackson Heights, NY 11373. Queens County, for on premises consumption. Heyli's Pizza and Restaurant Corp.

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LEGAL NOTICES**NOTICE OF SALE**

Supreme Court
County Of Queens
Nationstar Mortgage LLC,
Plaintiff AGAINST
Charmaine Yap, et al,
Defendant
Pursuant to a Judgment of
Foreclosure and Sale duly
dated 1/12/2018 and entered
on 1/25/2018, I, the
undersigned Referee, will
sell at public auction at the
Queens County Courthouse,
88-11 Sutphin Blvd.,
Courtroom 25, Jamaica, NY
on August 31, 2018 at
10:00 AM premises known
as 144-18 159th Street,
Jamaica, NY 11434.
All that certain plot piece or
parcel of land, with the
buildings and improvements
erected, situate, lying and being
in the County of Queens, City
and State of New York,
BLOCK: 15013, LOT: 38.
Approximate amount of
judgment is \$233,973.29 plus
interests and costs.
Premises will be sold subject
to provisions of filed Judgment
Index # 006512/2014.
Kerry J. Katsorhis, Referee
FRENKEL LAMBERT WEISS
WEISMAN & GORDON LLP
53 Gibson Street
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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that a license, Serial Number
1312423, for Beer & Wine
has been applied for by the
undersigned to sell Beer, Wine
& Cider at retail under the
Alcoholic Beverage Control Law
at 5915 7th Ave., Brooklyn, NY
11220. Kings County, for on
premises consumption. Holy
Crab Boiling Inc.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that a license, Serial Number
1312350, for Beer & Wine
has been applied for by the
undersigned to sell Beer, Wine
& Cider at retail under the Alcoholic
Beverage Control Law at 89-
14 Queens Blvd., Elmhurst, NY
11373. Queens County, for on
premises consumption. Ginger
Dollar Sushi Inc.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that a license, Serial Number
1312548, for Beer & Wine
has been applied for by the
undersigned to sell Beer, Wine
& Cider at retail under the Alcoholic
Beverage Control Law at 18-
24 College Point Blvd., College
Point, NY 11356. Queens County,
for on premises consumption.
Little Red Pepper Inc.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that a license, Serial Number
1312433, for Eating Place
Beer has been applied for by
the undersigned to sell Beer
& Cider at retail under the
Alcoholic Beverage Control
Law at 4214 8th Ave., Brooklyn,
NY 11232. Kings County, for
on premises consumption.
Dafa New York Inc.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that a license, Number 1312541,
for Restaurant Wine has been
applied for by the undersigned
to sell Wine, Beer & Cider at
retail in a Restaurant under the
Alcoholic Beverage Control Law
at 6058 Flushing Ave., Maspeth,
NY 11378. Queens County,
for on-premises consumption.
Sushi A Gogo Inc.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that a license, Serial Number
1312314, for Beer & Wine
has been applied for by the
undersigned to sell Beer, Wine
& Cider at retail under the
Alcoholic Beverage Control Law
at 313 6th Ave., New York, NY
10014. New York County, for on
premises consumption. Zhang
Ba Gou Inc.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that a license, Number Pending,
for Restaurant Wine has been
applied for by the undersigned
to sell Wine, Beer & Cider at retail
under the Alcoholic Beverage
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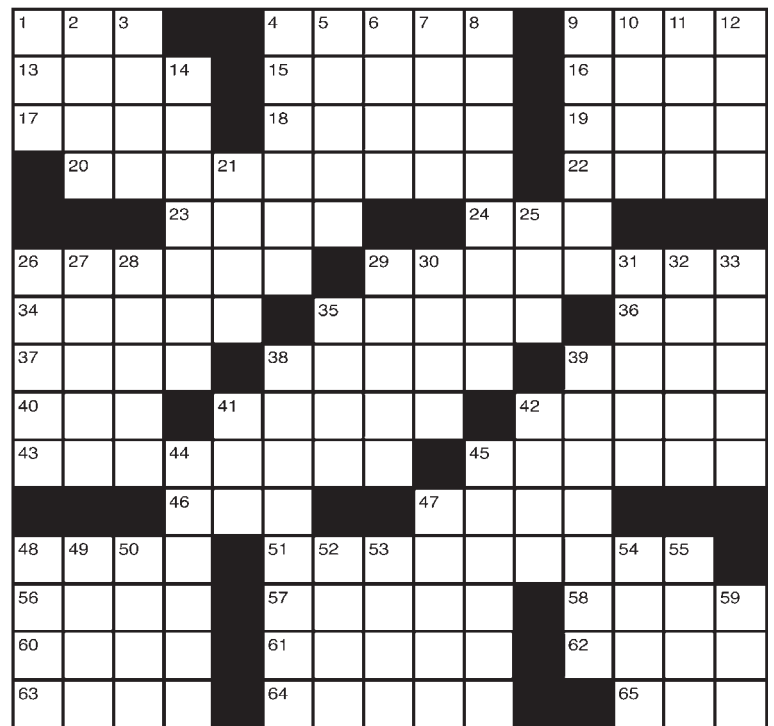
ACROSS

- 11 Late comedian Bernie
4 Argyles
9 ___ out; protrudes
13 Needs some medicine
15 Make amends
16 Bogeyman
17 Word of mild disgust
18 Overly prim
19 Murdered
20 Popular pasta
22 Watches
23 Raise, as kids
24 Geography book diagram
26 Tooth hole
29 Abundance; large amount
34 Microwaves
35 Male bee
36 "Old King Cole ___ a merry old soul..."
37 Björn of tennis
38 Banquet
39 Helsinki native
40 Big ___; 18-wheeler
41 Pennies
42 Pig out
43 Sufficient

- 45 Fast-food item
46 Shake-___; radical reorganizations
47 "___ with the Wind"
48 Bangkok resident
51 Significant
56 On a ___; winning repeatedly
57 Facial hair
58 Librarian's advice
60 Smallest continent: abbr.
61 Massive
62 Short note
63 ___ and cons
64 Go into
65 Last calendar pg.

DOWN

- 1 Irate
2 Broadcasts
3 Sound of thunder
4 Walk about pompously
5 Furry swimmer
6 Layer of paint
7 Make booties
8 Gritty residue
9 Nativity scene figurine
10 Unsightly
11 Juniper or poplar
12 Stitches
14 Gazing
21 ___ away; escapes
25 Polished off
26 Deadly viper
27 Steer clear of
28 Threshold; brink
29 Babble
30 Bereavement
31 ___ to; because of
32 "Home on the ___"
33 Actor Ed ___
35 Car ding
38 Doable; possible
39 Gun
41 Recipe measurement
42 Tap a baseball
44 Bed coverings
45 Edge
47 Steep-walled canyon
48 Mouse catcher
49 Period of time
50 Additionally
52 Cruel
53 Portion
54 Have to have
55 Easy to handle
59 M.D., familiarly

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All at Once
Always Love
Awards
Billboard
Bodyguard

Dance
Emmy
Emotional
Exhale
Grammy

Houston
Miracle
Model
Music
Whitney

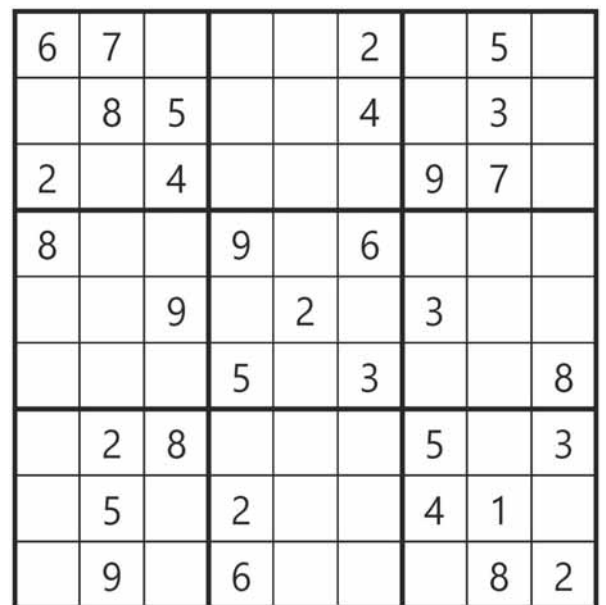
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Category: Two for One



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